

## U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Nuclear Education Faculty Development Grant Program

The goal of the proposed Faculty Development Program is to provide the necessary funding for attracting and retaining highly qualified individuals to the University of Florida's Nuclear & Radiological Engineering Department. This Program is especially important because of the large and increasing demand for such individuals across all sectors of the nuclear industry, and the limited number of individuals who can fit an academic career. The current proposal is intended to support the existing faculty, and provide funding for attracting new faculty for our ongoing faculty search.

The program will support two out of three eligible faculty members in the NRE Department who joined the Department during academic years of 2004-05 and 2005-06. The funding will boost their existing programs, and allow them to initiate new programs which can contribute significantly to workforce training and breakthrough research studies in support of 'the design, construction, operation, and regulation of nuclear facilities and the safe handling of nuclear materials.' These activities also create the possibility of the development of research programs for the enhancement of the University of Florida Training Reactor (UFTR), our new initiative in the area of Fully-Digital Instrumentation and Control, nuclear power related research, and establishment of new industry-sponsored research programs.